

Town of Lyme  
Budget Committee  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
7:00PM

Town Office/Police Station Conference Room

Approved: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Present Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Charles J. Smith, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, Greg Lange, Phil Barta, Brian Cook and Earl Strout.

Selectboard members: Susan MacKenzie & Patricia Jenks. Town Clerk: Patricia Jenks. Treasurer, Andrea Colgan. Fire Chief, Michael Hinsley. Library Trustee, Patty Hudson and Librarian, Judy Russell. Police Chief, Shaun O'Keefe. Administrative Assistant, Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Brotman.

1. Public Comment: there was none at this time.
2. Police:
  - Chief O'Keefe reviewed the new radar speed signs. The signs were purchased with a grant from The Lyme Foundation. These are permanent solar signs and will be installed on Route 10 north and south of the village. The Lyme Foundation expressed an interest in having another sign, purchased by the Town, to be placed in the area of the Lyme Center village. The additional solar sign would cost \$2,600.00. After a thorough review it was the sense of the budget committee to not recommend the additional funds in the 2015 budget.
  - Overtime hours and the deletion of some part-time hours were discussed.
  - The number of calls have increased, keeping the 2 officers very busy, but it is working.
  - The Police department will be switching to a faster DSL line through WI Valley. Police software requires more band width than present supplier can offer.
  - Police computers will be under a separate contract for maintenance repair and updating. The service contract for this will be \$1,550.00.
3. Fire:
  - Chief Hinsley reviewed various types of calls and false alarms.
  - Insurance for volunteer members is working out.
  - Reviewed the benefits of leaning towards a smaller fire truck for the Town.
  - Fire Station being painted, various energy saving projects are going on.
  - Reviewed costs for Fire Truck parts and repairs.
  - Capital Reserve Fund is well funded now and should be maintained.
4. Library:
  - Librarian Judy Russell reviewed repairs and maintenance to the building. This line item goes up and down depending on what job is slated for what year. The bathroom down stairs will be next on the list.
  - The Library is still considering how to address the use of the downstairs rooms with respect to safety. A window well emergency exit is still being considered.
  - The library's computer equipment was reviewed.
  - A new after school homework program was described. The Library is seeking volunteers to staff this program.
5. Roads:
  - MacKenzie distributed a handout reviewing ongoing road projects (see attachment).
  - The Goose Pond Road project was reviewed. This road from the 4 corners to Hewes Hill is the project area. It will be done in stages because of the cost. This section and River Road south were just ground and rolled. The Road committee is trying to cut costs for these 2 large road projects. River Road south will be another project completed in sections and will be very costly. Both projects involve drainage, replacing road bed with

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soil and fabric to drain better, and finish work. River Road will need to include some form of bank stabilization.

- The Road Committee is looking at various cost saving options for culverts and bridges.
  - Class V Capital Reserve Fund- it will cost roughly \$50,000 to do ½ mile of road. The funds in this CRF will most likely be used as projects are identified within the 10 year plan.
6. Emergency Management Director:
    - Equipment, computer, training, travel expenses, table top meetings, the update of the Town Emergency Plan document are all slated for funding this year. The increase in line 191 is due to meeting state mandates for Emergency Plans and drills concerning this plan.
  7. Cemetery:
    - Equipment for the Cemetery expenditures was discussed. The sense of the Budget Committee was to make sure the funding reflects the line items described. Adjustments to budget line names will be made.
  8. Conservation Commission:
    - The Commission requested moving \$30.00 from one line to another; this does not affect the total Conservation Commission budget.
  9. Capital Reserve Funds:
    - The Budget Committee reviewed the Selectboard request for funding “To CRF”. It was noted that no new vehicles and/or heavy equipment are due to be purchased in 2015.
    - The Budget Committee requested a copy of the CRF spreadsheet.
  10. The Committee discussed the rate of inflation, COLA, expecting some increase because of road & bridge projects. At this time it was the sense of the Budget Committee to take a preliminary vote on the proposed 2015 operating budget.
  11. Mr. Strout moved to accept the operating budget for 2015 as proposed by the Selectboard in the amount of \$2,076,940.00. Seconded by Ragan. Followed was a discussion concerning the committee waiting to vote on this figure until the committee has an opportunity to review the CRF spreadsheets. The board will not vote on the CRF only the Operating Budget at this time.
  12. It was noted the following monetary items were considered for this budget:
    - a) \$2,600.00 New Solar Speed sign: Not at this time
    - b) \$100.00 increase for the Emergency Management Plan line: yes
  13. Mr. Jones made an amendment in the amount of \$2,077,040.00. Seconded by Mr. Cook. Amended motion voted unanimously in favor.
  14. The Budget Committee will address the CRF & Trust funds and have the first presentation of the upcoming school budget at the meeting on December 17, 2015.
  15. At 8:45PM Mr. Strout moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Ragan. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting